

## Launch of the Solar Energy and Clean Cooking Fund – FESEC (Fonds d’Energie Solaire et de la Cuisson) in Burundi



**On Wednesday March 22, 2023**, the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines (MINHEM) of the Republic of Burundi launched the Solar Energy Project in Rural Communities also called SOLEIL-NYAKIRIZA financed by the World Bank, with the aim of increasing the rate of access to electricity and to efficient and clean cooking solutions.

One of the components of the SOLEIL-NYAKIRIZA project is the Solar Energy and Clean Cooking Fund (Fonds d’Energie Solaire et de Cuisson – FESEC) which is guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular affordable access to clean energy and the fight against climate change. The main objective is to provide access to energy services for households and small businesses throughout the national territory of the Republic of Burundi by 2030.

This USD 17 million fund aims to reach 65,000 households with off-grid solar products and 300,000 households with improved stoves for efficient and clean cooking. The fund is established for a fixed term until its closure on March 01, 2026.

[Bamboo Capital Partners](#) was appointed as the International Administrator-Manager of FESEC by MINHEM in September 2022. FESEC will provide funding in the form of grants to private sector companies working in the production, distribution and financing of certified quality off-grid solar products to end consumers as well as improved efficient and clean cooking stoves of tested quality, with the objective of accelerating access to sustainable electricity and efficient and clean cooking solutions in Burundi.

According to Jean-Philippe de Schrevel, Founder and Managing Partner of Bamboo Capital Partners: « *Bamboo Capital Partners is a pioneer in the management of investment funds focused on promoting access to clean energy through investments and strengthening the private*

sector in various emerging countries. We will build upon our experience and know-how in this field to advance Burundian household electrification and to promote the transition towards the use of efficient and clean stoves by the population. Access to energy remains a major challenge in many African countries and Burundi is no exception. The country faces a low rate of electrification, especially in rural areas, as well as the issue of deforestation since wood is the main source of energy used for cooking in the majority of Burundian households. We are confident that the Fund launched by the Government of Burundi with the support of the World Bank will build a solid foundation and ensure continuity in the development of the private sector in the fields of solar power and efficient and clean cooking. The private sector will contribute to creating a positive impact on the lives of Burundians and will also help preserve natural resources, even beyond the duration of FESEC. »

The FESEC Fund includes 3 funding windows:

- Start-up grants: targeting SMEs wishing to launch their activities in the sectors targeted by the Fund;
- Growth grants: Targeting already established businesses with capacity to distribute off-grid solar products as well as efficient and clean cooking products;
- Result-Based Financing: subsidies granted to beneficiaries on the basis of sales and installations made.

The FESEC fund also aims to promote female entrepreneurship through the allocation of a share of grants dedicated to this purpose.

According to Anya Berezhna, Investment Director at Bamboo Capital Partners: *"The launch of the project comes at a favorable time for the development of the distribution activities of solar products and those of efficient and clean cooking in view of the global context of rising prices for commodities. This raises a new challenge for the transition to renewable energy, or to a more sparingly use of resources in the case of improved cookstoves, in an environment of slowing economic growth and inflationary pressure which in turn deteriorate the purchasing power of the most vulnerable populations. Our entire team will work jointly with the MINHEM and the World Bank to develop and implement the most appropriate support and financing instruments to achieve the objectives of the fund. We are delighted to be able to contribute to the development of the private sector in Burundi in the targeted areas while contributing to the improvement of the living conditions of the Burundian population."*

